



Hamburg, 25th August 2016

Dear supporters and donors, dear friends!

Right from the very beginning we received support from volunteers on the ground for our projects in Namibia. Over and over again people from various lands came and are still coming in order to put their knowledge, their time and their enthusiasm to use at no cost.

I dedicate this newsletter to all those who over the last ten years have supported us to build up the projects with their personal efforts – hearty thanks!



Five volunteers returned to Germany in August and four new volunteers are just beginning a year in Gobabis and Okakarara. Read about their experiences. In case you feel the urge to break away – contact us!

Your Michael Hoppe

Three words for an unforgettable year

In the middle of August we bade farewell to our four „Weltwärts“ volunteers Janna, Lisa, Katharina, Sophia und Patrizia – she was on location for three months. With great heart and energy they have worked in our projects at Gobabis and Okakarara and describe here in three words what was special about the time and what the work and life in Namibia moved in them..

Okakarara



Katharina: UNFORGETTABLE– HEREROS – SHARP

Unforgettable: For me the decision to do the year here was certainly one of the best I have ever made and I am greatly pleased to have been allowed to experience that.

Sophia: COMFORTZONE – KATHI – TJIRUMBU

Tjirumbu is Otjiherero and means something like „White man“ That was shouted after us, day in, day out, and stands for the cultural differences that had to be overcome.



Patrizia: CONTRAST – KAPANA – PETOSHA

Contrast: When one spends a weekend in Windhoek with its huge shopping-malls that are just as modern as big shopping centres in Germany and the next in a traditional village without electricity or running water, it is hard to believe that this is the same country.

What is hidden behind the other words? Find out here:
<http://www.stepsforchildren.de/drei-worte/>

From start to finish in their stays Katharina, Sophia and also 3 month volunteer Patrizia have applied themselves with unrestrained enthusiasm and creativity to the project work in Okakarara. They are great team players and worked with their colleagues in their individual ways for the good of the children. They showed an open and empathetic way with children of all age groups.



My three words for them: AUTHENTIC- COMPETENT – REFLECTIVE

Heartfelt thanks – we miss you!

Sonja (Project leader in Okakarara)

Gobabis



Janna: OUTER BREADTH – INNER DEPTHS

It has been like a long journey to my inner-self, accompanied by wonderful people, exciting and challenging work and the beauty of Namibia. Namibia has become for me a "home away from home".

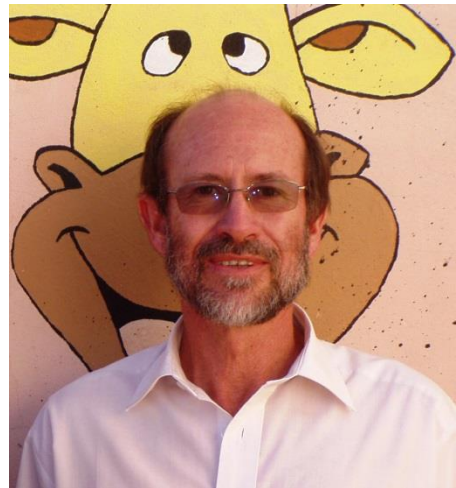
Lisa: MADISA – UP AND DOWN – LUCKY DIP

The daily life in Namibia with all its different facets reminds me of a giant lucky dip.

Who or what is Madisa? Find out here:
<http://www.stepsforchildren.de/drei-worte/>

There's a surprise in the fact that two young strangers come halfway around the world and then adapt themselves so soon to a totally different environment. For us - children and grown-ups - it feels like Janna and Lisa had always been part of us.

We're going to miss the way they just saw needs and responded to it. We appreciated even to have met their family members, kind people who allowed their youngsters to live and work here in Gobabis. We wish Lisa and Janna only the best for their lives ahead.



Henk (Project leader Gobabis)

Committed from Namibia to Germany

After such a time, so full of new experiences and hopefully such personal enrichment, the connection to the far away continent should not be broken. What moved our volunteers at the locations in Africa and they themselves moved is a great enrichment for our work in Germany. At the end our volunteers come back as steps experts. Who has worked for a long time in close contact with our Namibian operations can not only pass on these experiences to others and inspire them but can give a creative impulse to our activities in Germany. Therefore it is our long-term aim to pull together these strengths and to give space for their own initiative. e.g. through the founding of action groups who organize poetry slams, flea markets, private concerts and lots more for steps for children.

So: Welcome back and stay in touch...

More under: www.stepsforchildren.de/stayintouch



At the beginning everything is different

We warmly welcome our new Weltwärts-volunteers Celine, Alice, Doro und Leonie to Gobabis and Okakarara. They now almost have the first two weeks behind them, they have partly got to know the project and their colleagues and are slowly getting settled in!



Alice und Celine

We are pleased to have eventually got to Gobabis and to be able to start our exciting year here. We expect to get to know lots of nice new people (which we have certainly already done) and through them to be introduced to their culture. Longstanding friendships will certainly develop. We are delighted to be able to bring our ideas to the pre-school and to collect for ourselves exciting new experiences.



Doro und Leonie

We are looking forward to the coming year and hope to collect lots of new experiences and to get to know a new culture, new people and a new environment.

Leonie: I also hope that I will be well accepted and settle in well. Also I would like to have the feeling of doing something useful and to be able to master difficult situations.

Doro: I also hope to work on myself and to develop my personality further and perhaps to discover sides to myself that I did not know before. Hopefully in a year's time I will be proud of what I have achieved..

Not just simply away!

Interested in joining one of our steps-projects?



A year with the *weltwärts* programme in Afrika

We are a partner organisation of Volunta gGmbH, a part of the German Red Cross in Hessen. Volunta is an authorized dispatch organization of the *weltwärts* programme of the federal ministry of economic cooperation and development. Through an application to Volunta for the *weltwärts* programme, volunteers can become involved with our projects in Okakarara and Gobabis.

The deadline for applications for the period 08.2017 – 08.2018 is March 2017. However the available places will be allocated according to the suitability of the applicant and could be allocated before March.

<http://www.volunta.de/auslandsprogramme/weltwaerts.html>



Teach and learn as an expert in Namibia

Do you work as a craftsman in a firm, are you a finance expert in a company or do you teach in a school? We would be delighted if you would share your expertise with our employees in Namibia and train them through workshops and actively working together.

Three months voluntary service in Africa

Additionally you can help on location in Africa by supporting our work for a minimum of 3 months at one of our project locations. The placement will be coordinated by steps for children together with the project partner. The travel and accommodation costs need to be met by the volunteer themselves.

Please remember to apply for a visa from the Namibian embassy in Berlin in plenty of time (at least 4 months before starting the placement).

<http://www.stepsforchildren.de/dreimonatiger-freiwilligendienst-afrika/>



As a senior or a granny in the world

Has your working life come to an end, have the children left the house, but are you still full of life and enthusiasm? Various organisations offer possibilities to work abroad. At "Senior Experts Service" one can apply ones working skills in projects and as a granny or au pair, give your heart and your knowledge as an acting- grandma or –granddad to small and large in the nursery, pre-school or afternoon supervision

>> Talk to us – we would gladly help with the planning <<

Every donation helps. You will be investing in the future of needy children. Please donate to the steps for children foundation:

**Hamburger Sparkasse, Account: 1238149726, Sort Code: 200 505 50
IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPDEHHXXX
or online at www.stepsforchildren.de**

In many countries, donations to *steps for children* can be set against income tax. You will automatically be sent a receipt after your donation has been received.

Yours sincerely

Michael Hoppe
(Chairman)

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